

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Soviet Forces in Rumania; Repairs at Braila Naval Base

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1. Soviet infantry, with a strength estimated at 30,000 men wearing khaki uniforms, are billeted in the center of the city of Braila. Ten thousand other Soviet troops are billeted in the same city in the barracks of the Rumanian non-mechanized artillery, in the old National Bank Building where the Kommandatura has its offices, at a site called Imparatul Traian, and on Strada Fata Partului, near the port of Braila where the offices of the Soviet Naval Base are located.
2. Many of the Soviet troops, however, are in civilian dress so that the inhabitants will not be able to estimate accurately the strength of the Soviet forces present.
3. Soviet infantry, artillery, and armored units have encamped at the city of Ramnicul Sarat. Other Soviet infantry and artillery forces are encamped in Focsani and Bazau.
4. Informant estimates Soviet military forces in Rumania at a total of 100,000. Thirty thousand of these are encamped near the Rumanian-Yugoslav frontier.
5. The Rumanian authorities are using Rumanian civilians to construct a fill near the Danube River from Braila to Galati; their purpose is to connect those two cities by railroad, but another purpose is to prevent flood waters of the Danube River from inundating the plain.
6. Soviet maneuvers took place in Viziru, (Braila) from 1 to 15 March 1949. Large forces of infantry participated and were supported by armored vehicles and by artillery. During these maneuvers the troops did not spare private property; they broke down fences, ran over cultivated fields, entered houses, and in general acted as if engaged in real operations. The maneuvers took place during the night hours.
7. A Soviet communications station is in operation outside Braila at a place called Brailita. This station is in the "Franco-Rumana" factory building. The factory was recently in operation constructing railroad cars and river boats.

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8. Three 400-ton Soviet auxiliary vessels are being repaired at the Braila naval base (IRN). The shipyards here have about 100 workmen each and are building or repairing 1,000-ton river vessels for the Soviets. The work is done under Soviet supervision against Rumanian reparations due the USSR.

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